

Buckingham are full of confidence

UNITED Counties League club Buckingham Town are brim full of confidence for the visit of Wycombe Wanderers tomorrow (Saturday) in the first round of the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup.

That confidence is based on performances this season. Buckingham are currently fifth in Division One with only two defeats. They have three games in hand on the league leaders which would put them top. But it is one particular F.A. Vase performance that has really been the talking point around the North Bucks club.

Three weeks ago they were at home to Coventry Sporting. They were 2-0 up after 15 minutes but eventually lost out 3-2. A week later Coventry Sporting beat Tranmere Rovers the Fourth Division leaders at the time, 2-0. Another notable result was their 3-1 victory over Burnham in the previous round of the Senior Cup. Burnham are a good side this season whose only other defeat was at the hands of Southern League Wealdstone in the F.A. Cup.

Buckingham then, will certainly be no walk-over for the Blues. Town had 'spies' out on Monday night at Loakes Park when they watched Wanderers beat Bedford 2-1. Secretary Tony Mallett said after that performance: "We honestly think we have a chance. We spotted that their back four was a little weak on Monday and I think we could exploit that."

Buckingham president, Chris Lawrence, is a little more apprehensive about the outcome. "As long as we don't disgrace ourselves, I shall be happy. If we win, I'll be over the moon and if the game is drawn, I will be highly delighted."

Town are expecting between one and two thousand for the game, which kicks off at 2.30. The club has floodlights and extra time will be played if necessary.

The Buckingham team is made up of mainly local players, several of whom have played with Wolverton in the past. The men to look out for are skipper and centre-back Nigel Franklin and strikers Bobby Price and Ian Capell. Price scored the staggering total of 62 goals last term while Capell leads this season's tally with 18. Both Franklin and Graham Wheeler are Berks and Bucks Junior representatives.

Buckingham are currently under a probationary period with the Berks and Bucks having come up through junior and intermediate levels in the past three seasons.

Just what team Wanderers will field tomorrow is open to speculation. With the Cardiff trip only seven days away in the F.A. Cup, manager Brian Lee may be tempted to give some of his established players a rest. Several of them — John Delaney, Paul Birdseye, Tony Horseman and Geoff Anthony for instance — have all been playing with injuries recently and it could leave the way clear for the other members of the squad to get a game.

If so, forwards Derek Harris, Bob Macrae and other squad men, Derek Cotterill and Peter Spittle, could well come into the side.